CDN

Author! Author!

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First it was Clifford Irving, who reportedly has admitted his Howard Hughes book was a hoax. Irving got into trouble with the law in two countries, and may be headed for more on the domestic front because of his involvement, duly detailed in the public prints, with Nina van Pallandt, the Danish thrush, and Ann Baxter, Scuba diving queen of the coral reefs.

Now it's Leon Uris who's in the toils of the law. He is a best-selling author of topical novels, each one of which, according to writer Dick Schaap, could be subtitled "The Whole World Looks Jewish when You're in Love."

Uris enlisted the aid of one Philippe de Vosjoli, onetime head of French intelligence in the United States, to help him with the novel "Topaz," a spy caper with a French connection. This week, a Los Angeles judge agreed with de Vosjoli that he was entitled to 50 per cent of the royalty pie, and ordered Uris to pony up $353,350, plus half the proceeds from a forthcoming movie.

It's a bad time for writers.

BACK PLUS TWO